

Explanation of the Relationship Between The Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity & Chapters

General Overview

This document has been composed to help both The Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, Inc. ("Fraternity" herein) and the chapters of the Fraternity, understand the relationship that exists between the Fraternity and the chapters. Presented here is the meaning and non-meaning of each chapter's self-operation through a charter and power to initiate members into the chapter, the scope of the Fraternity's assistance, and the composition of the Fraternity.

The Charter & Initiation: How & Why Chapters Self-Operate

Each chapter receives a charter from the Fraternity. This charter is granted by and through the vote of existing chapters. When the chapter receives its charter from the Fraternity, it is granted the right to use the exclusive name, logos, and insignia of the Fraternity. The Fraternity grants the chapter the right to pledge and initiate members into the chapter using the Ritual on the conditions that the provisions of the *Constitution* of the Fraternity are met.

The chapter functions as a self-operated, self-governed, and self-financed group. Specifically, the chapter is an unincorporated association under the law of the state where it is located and operates. The chapter operates itself on a day-to-day basis and is responsible for compliance with all applicable rules and regulations of the college or university where it is located and with all applicable local, state, and federal laws and with the Fraternity's *Standards*.

The Charter & Initiation: What is Not Meant

The right to use the Fraternity name, logos, and insignia does not give the chapter or any member the right to sell or re-license to third parties, to use the name in any manner which is detrimental to the Fraternity or contrary to the *Standards*, or to bind the Fraternity to any agreements or obligations of any nature whatsoever and does not make the Fraternity liable for the conduct of chapter members or a chapter.

The fact that a charter has been issued and that the Fraternity allows the use of its name does not mean that the Fraternity obligates itself or undertakes to operate the chapter or to monitor, oversee, supervise, or attempt to control the chapter or its members or to discharge the separate rights and obligations which the chapter has as its own self-operated and self-financed entity.

The chapter and its members have the sole responsibility to self-operate and self-govern their own actions.

The Fraternity's Assistance: Scope & Availability

The Fraternity offers the chapter access to a multitude of services, programs and assistance in dealing with the undergraduate chapter experience. The emphasis of these resources is to encourage and assist the chapter's members to be self-managed. Services include:

- ◆ Suggestions of best practices in finances, recruitment, scholarship, athletics, etc.;
- ◆ Membership education programs and chapter's organization;
- ◆ Access to educational resources and individual campus visits from chapter consultants for advice and suggestions on best practices.

The Fraternity is strongly committed to the proposition that self-management of a chapter will provide its members the opportunity to broaden their non-academic education. The Fraternity

urges chapter officers to utilize the resources given to them to continue the education of the chapter members. When the chapter combines its members' acceptance of responsibility of these ideals, it can lead to the development of a satisfactory lifelong pattern of achievement.

The Fraternity's Assistance: What is Not Meant

Although each chapter functions as a component of the entire Fraternity, the chapter is a separate legal entity from the Fraternity and its members are individuals who are solely responsible for their own behavior. If the chapter or its members violate the law, the rules and regulations of the school, or the Fraternity's *Standards*, the Fraternity may exercise its right to revoke the chapter's charter. The responsibility to avoid these violations is that of the chapter and each of the members.

The Fraternity provides advice and assistance through recommendations of best practices; it is up to the chapter and its members to make their own decisions.

The Composition of the Fraternity

The chapters govern the Fraternity by having voting delegates at the Fraternity Convention every other year. At the Convention, legislation concerning fraternal matters for the Fraternity, chapters and members is prepared, discussed and enacted and the Supreme Council of the Fraternity is elected.

Thus, the Fraternity is composed of many chapters, each of which are legally separate self-operated, self-directed and self-financed entities where they are located, but with the common bond of brotherhood.

Administrative Services to the Fraternity

Various entities, by contract with the Fraternity, provide administrative services to the Fraternity, which may include the employment of a professional staff, the maintenance of membership records, the receipt and disbursement of funds, the publication of a magazine, the dissemination of educational materials, making arrangements for educational conferences and various periodic meetings of volunteers as well as liability protection and real estate services.

In performing these administrative and business functions, these entities do not undertake to monitor, oversee, direct or control the Fraternity, or any chapter or any members in their day-to-day activities or lives or in any other fashion.

Notes to Parents & Family of Members

All questions regarding a member's conduct or financial matters should be addressed with the chapter. If the situation involves alleged hazing, please immediately notify the office in Memphis, Tennessee.